

## **Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Lewisham Cyclists (LC)**

**held at Lewisham Civic Centre, Catford**

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018 6.30pm**

- 1) **Present:** Jane Davis (Coordinator), John Phillips (Treasurer), Tim Collingridge (Secretary), Cllr Mark Ingleby, Neil Robertson (Greenwich Cyclists Co-ordinator), Neville Fernandes, Anna Schulenburg, Roger Stocker, Josh Learner (Lewisham Cycling and Walking Programme Manager), Mike Tisdell.  
**Apologies:** Alex Raha, Brian Turpin, Matt Begg, Jeremy Doyle, Rik Andrew.

- 2) **Briefing from Josh Learner on current London Borough of Lewisham (LBL) Cycle Related Projects**

### **A21 Spine Segregated Lanes**

This project is not yet in TfL's Business Plan. Even taking out the effect of the Waterlink Way from TfL's Strategic Cycling Analysis it still apparently only comes 36<sup>th</sup> on their target list. TfL have 'quoted' £150K to do an 'Outcome Definition' (equivalent of a Feasibility Study) on the corridor. LBL have offered to part fund the OD with £30K from this year's LIP. Bromley Council are also interested in the plans and may be persuaded to contribute some funding. Funding from LBL is complicated by the fact that most of the corridor is a TfL managed route.

### **Cycle Superhighway 4**

Josh met with Osman (TfL Project Sponsor) a month ago (and is meeting again at end Sept). Modelling is now complete on TfL managed and designed sections. Detailed design starting late Sept. Construction June 2019 to Dec 2020. Josh will be meeting TfL fortnightly during construction. Southwark Council are still doing modelling on their section (Lower Road/Surrey Quays).

### **Catford Gyratory**

Josh has emailed Sarah Walsh re coordinating a meeting with the Designers (Nov/Dec). There is also a meeting planned for Oct 29<sup>th</sup> that LC representatives could attend.

### **Worsley Bridge Rd/Southend Lane junctions/crossing improvements for Quietways**

Modelling is complete on this. TfL are reviewing results with outcomes due in Nov. If the improvements get the go-ahead there will be a consultation in early 2019.

### **Canada Water to Deptford Quietway**

These modest improvements are due for construction in late 2018. Main intervention is a 'Tiger' crossing on Grove St. Lend Lease, as the major local developer, are reviewing the improvements and are expected to respond soon.

### **Future Quietways**

Using TfL's Strategic Cycling Analysis two other corridors have been identified for potential future Quietways: Lee to Ladywell & Honor Oak Park to Sydenham.

### **LIP3 (see below) including Traffic Reduction Scheme (Healthy Neighbourhoods)**

LBL have identified 23 'cells' bounded by main roads in the borough that could be isolated from through motorised traffic and treated as Healthy Neighbourhoods. Under LIP3 they are planning to work on 2 to 3 of these per year introducing traffic filtering and public realm improvements. The cells will be prioritised based on vehicle throughput, pollution levels and the fact that community groups are actively asking for these improvements e.g. Lee, Brockley. Public consultation on the first 3 or 4 'cells' is planned for Jan 2019.

### **Deptford North Liveable Neighbourhood**

Watermans are coordinating the Feasibility Stage of the project with this phase running from Oct to end March 2019. Community engagement is planned for Oct & Nov.

### **One Way/Two Way cycling conversions**

Watermans are putting together plans for 10 schemes this financial year and a longer term ongoing programme.

### **Dockless Bike hire**

LBL have been talking to Ofo and Mobike, but given recent uncertainty in funding/commitment from these two suppliers, a formal agreement is in abeyance at the moment.

### **Crofton Park public realm improvements**

Project Centre will apparently be starting detailed design soon. Josh didn't know if the plans have changed from the ones heavily criticised by LC and Lewisham Living Streets.

**Josh committed to attend the January 2019 LC meeting to give us a further update.**

- 3) **Actions from Minutes of last monthly meeting:**

- a) **Local Implementation Plan (LIP3).**  
 The 2019/2020 LIP3 programme is being presented to the Mayor and Cabinet on 20<sup>th</sup> September for approval. <http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&Mid=5208>  
Action: Tim to post out a link to LIP3 on LC Facebook and eList for comment by members.  
Action: LC to review the LIP submission and feedback comments to LBL.
- b) **Catford Master Planning and A205/A21 junction redesign.**  
 The 'Master Planners' for the whole Catford Redevelopment (including the road realignments) have now been appointed – they are Studio Egret West and Carl Turner.  
Action: Outstanding - Mark to get us a contact at Studio Egret West and Carl Turner so we can send them the junction-assessment, including a link to the LCC Better Junctions layouts <https://lcc.org.uk/pages/better-junctions> and to request a meeting with them, including LC representatives, to discuss the projected plans.  
Action: LC representatives could also attend the Sustainable Development Committee meetings on 29<sup>th</sup> October or 12<sup>th</sup> December at one of which the Planners are scheduled to present plans – check Agendas beforehand.
- c) **Lewisham Gateway (and other central Lewisham developments).**  
 The Lewisham commonplace map contained a range of comments on Lewisham Gateway that are worth considering in future campaigns.  
 Also see item 4c) below.  
Action: Brian to keep a watching brief on these developments.
- d) **LC campaigning strategies, communications and organisation structure.**  
 A sub-group meeting was held on Monday August 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm to discuss these issues with a view to making our campaigning more effective and enhancing communications with members, residents and other stakeholder groups in Lewisham.  
Action: Jeremy and Brian to present the conclusions from the sub-group meeting at the next monthly meeting for further discussion.
- e) **Planning for summer Councillors' visit to Waltham Forest (WF) to view a mini-Holland project.**  
 This fact-finding trip took place on the morning of Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September.  
 The Lewisham Mayor Damien Egan, Cllr Mark Ingleby (Whitefoot), Cllr Louise Krupski (Rushey Green) Cllr Sophie McGeevor (Brockley), Cllr Patrick Codd (Lewisham Central), Jane Davis (LC), Tim Collingridge (LC) and Mike Tisdell (LC) all attended.  
 Paul Gasson and Dan Kelly from Waltham Forest LCC group gave us a very informative walking tour of the mini-Holland traffic filtered 'villages'. It was self-evident how the areas had been dramatically improved by filtering out through traffic and providing new imaginative mini public spaces. Walking and cycling has now become the primary mode of transport for people locally and the school run to some local primary schools no longer attracts any cars.  
 There was a lot of enthusiasm amongst the attendees for bringing these lessons back to similar residential areas in Lewisham.  
 A few of us also subsequently rode down the Lea Bridge Road where the segregated cycle lanes provide a good analogy for the type of provision mooted in the A21 Spine project.
- f) **Cycle Superhighway 4 (CS4 - Tower Bridge to Greenwich)**  
 See Josh Learner's briefing notes above for the latest update.
- g) **A21 Lewisham Spine segregated lanes and Liveable Neighbourhoods project.**  
 See Josh Learner's briefing notes above for the latest update.
- h) **Recent cyclist fatalities on Woolwich road in Greenwich.**  
 Neil Robertson (Greenwich LC Coordinator) has written to his local MP regarding these tragic fatalities, particularly regarding the need for Direct Vision lorries to become the standard and the shelved extension of CS4 from Greenwich to Woolwich to be taken forward along with the rest of the route.  
Action: Jane/Neil. To agree a joint statement to send to the London Mayor/Greenwich Council/Len Duvall/Local MPs etc.
- i) **Bellingham pedestrian bridge over Hayes railway line replacement works.**  
 This bridge is currently being refurbished by Network Rail. We were hoping that the bridge was going to be replaced with a ramped cycle and disability accessible one in the near future e.g. as part of the Waterlink Way Quietway works.

Action: Jane to ask Josh if he has access to any indicative costings for such a bridge for future reference.

**j) Quietway developments.**

The upgrade of LCN22 (Peckham to Catford) to a Quietway is still apparently being worked on in Southwark. Members commented that LBL don't appear to have any plans for any further works on their section. On the Lewisham/Southwark border Eddystone Bridge and St Norbert Rd junction with Brockley Way are both unsatisfactory for a Quietway as they stand.

Action: Jane to talk to Southwark Cyclists to establish if these sections are included in Southwark Council's work plan.

**k) Planning Application DC/18/107698 CONVOYS LTD, PRINCE STREET, LONDON, SE8 3JH**

<https://planning.lewisham.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal= LEWIS DCAPR 95605>

At a previous meeting we had a brief discussion about this planning application – the first of the buildings to be constructed on the wider Convoys Wharf development. Points that came up were as follows 1) Given that there is a commitment to extend the Thames walking and cycling path through the development – how soon will that be open? 2) Is the amount of car parking sustainable in an area which already suffers serious congestion and rat-running issues? 3) Is docked, or dockless, cycle hire part of the transport planning as all the rail/underground stations are some distance away from the development? 4) Is the building's Cycle Parking readily accessible and properly secure? 5) Will building materials be conveyed predominantly by river to reduce the number of hazardous HGV movements?

Action: Outstanding - LC to make a group response to the planning application.

Action: Jane. To email Josh and ask if he has a general view on the area-wide impacts of the Convoy's Wharf development and the cycling related elements in particular.

**l) Cycle Policy Formal Review Meeting.**

The approved Lewisham Cycling Policy included provision for a periodic Formal Review with Stakeholders on the progress against the policy. LBL Officers to present progress against the policy targets and Stakeholders having the opportunity to feedback their views likewise.

Action: Mark to put this on the agenda for the Sustainable Development Committee with a view to the Formal Review taking place in the January Committee meeting.

**m) Congestion Charge consultation (closes 28th Sept).**

<https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/policy/private-hire-charge-exemption/>

After posting this on our eList and Facebook group no responses were received from members so it is assumed that this is not considered to be a critical issue for us.

**4) Other issues & projects:**

**a) LBL Parks & Open Spaces Consultation (closes 28<sup>th</sup> Oct).**

<https://consultation.lewisham.gov.uk/environment/newparks/>

Action: Tim to post up on Facebook and eList for member's comments.

Action: LC to discuss at next meeting and prepare a group response.

**b) Deptford Parks Liveable Neighbourhood Steering Group – nomination of LC representative.**

At this meeting Jane was nominated to be the LC representative.

Action: Tim to inform Deptford Folk.

**c) Lewisham Gateway junction – letter to Will Norman proposed by Brian Turpin (See Appendix A).**

Attendees were very supportive of the letter Brian has compiled.

Action: Jane to send the letter out.

**d) Details on LIP Outcomes 2016/17 & 2017/18.**

Roger is going to make a private Freedom of Information request for this information.

**e) Forest Hill £1.5m public realm improvement scheme criticisms.**

See <https://twitter.com/roggys/status/1011296832713093126>

This was briefly discussed and the general view was that the scheme was very disappointing from a cycling point of view.

**f) Catford Green development.**

Despite the planning application apparently showing on-street cycle parking none has yet been installed.

Action: Jane to email Josh and ask if Barratt have satisfied their planning obligations in terms of on-street visitor cycle parking.

5) **A.O.B.**

a) **Lewisham Youth Cycling Club proposal.**

Neville Fernandes proposed the idea of establishing a Cycling Club in Central Lewisham, maybe based in the Ladywell Arena. Modelled along the lines of Bigfoot Bromley where kids are trained in various styles of cycling from the age of 5 years onwards. Other potential locations that could be utilised are Herne Hill Velodrome, Forster Memorial Park and Beckenham Park BMX track.

Action: Jane to reflect on these plans and revert to Neville.

**Meeting closed around 8.20pm.**

**Next LC Monthly Meeting will be on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October at 6.30 pm at Lewisham Civic Centre.**

Appendix A – Proposed Lewisham Gateway letter

Dear Will Norman CC Heidi Alexander; Damien Egan; Mark Ingleby; Josh Learner

Lewisham Gateway Junction – still a clear and present danger

We would like you to carry out an urgent review of the Lewisham Gateway junction to assess its safety, and include it on the Safer Junctions programme. This is with reference to the Mayor's Vision Zero Action Programme (July 2018). Section 4.1 states...

“As we move forward, we will take a risk-based approach to identifying new junctions to add to the programme.

Locations on the Safer Junctions list will be monitored and reviewed each year, with additions to the programme being made if necessary, so that it always focuses on the highest risk junctions.

London boroughs are also encouraged to follow the same approach to tackling high-risk locations on their road networks through the use of Local Implementation Plan funding. We will provide analytical and technical design support for delivery of these schemes.”

We would very much like to support this review and have many alternative suggestions for improved designs based on the experiences of our members.

The recent Lewisham Commonplace evidences 277 comments/agreements about the lack of safe space for cyclists, and there are many other comments about the hostile environment for pedestrians. Typical comments include:

“The new roads here are disappointing for cyclists. There is so much space for proper, cycle superhighway-style segregated cycle paths here and they are very much needed.”

“Cycling infrastructure at the Lewisham gyratory is non-existent. When redesigning the new road layout and planning improvements, cyclists have not been taken into account; there are no cycle boxes at the lights on Rennell Street or cycle lanes on the entire road plan. Access to the shopping centre is not obvious ... the pedestrian has clearly been considered as an afterthought. High pollution levels are obvious here. Lewisham High Street ...has great potential to be a brilliant,

clean, safe central hub for the community – ...but this is totally brought down by the presence of dominating vehicles and lack of pedestrian infrastructure which I think inhibits people spending their time and money there.”

The Gateway scheme has been unfortunately singled out for criticism in Building Design. Short listed for the Carbuncle Cup including the redesign of one of London’s “most notoriously inhospitable” traffic gyratory system, replacing it with a scheme that is worse” said the editor. For cyclists, it is “absolutely terrifying” and “if you are in a car you haven’t got a clue where you are going. All around it are new towers. It could have been so much better...It seems to me that ... they haven’t really regenerated anything at all.”

We would support a review with practical and constructive ideas and designs. These will include properly designed off-carriageway routes (there is no east-west link which was always promised) as well as segregated road space for people on bicycles avoiding left hooks, and improving the pedestrian experience.

Lewisham, and its people, deserve so much better.

Yours sincerely

Jane Davis. (Co-ordinator, Lewisham Cyclists)